

January 14, 2016

IBMP Partners

Re: Decision on Year-Round Wild Bison Habitat in Montana

Dear IBMP Partners,

We write to encourage you to move forward as soon as possible with adopting the State of Montana's December 22, 2015 decision on expanding year-round bison habitat adjacent to Yellowstone National Park in Montana. In light of all of the major changes and developments over the past decade, this very modest step forward will improve bison management while ensuring the livestock industry is protected, and should be adopted as an adaptive management change to the Interagency Bison Management Plan as soon as possible.

There are many reasons why it's time to move forward with expanding year-round habitat for wild bison in Montana outside Yellowstone National Park. First, giving wild bison from Yellowstone access to year-round habitat in Montana would help mitigate the cycle of conflict and controversy by moving toward a model that treats bison as valued native wildlife, while providing greater management options. Taxpayers could save money from a reduction in intensive management, and state and tribal hunters would be able to harvest more bison under more socially acceptable conditions. Finally, public comments have overwhelmingly supported year-round bison habitat in Montana.

The Interagency Bison Management Plan (IBMP) is specifically designed to adapt and evolve in response to changes on the landscape. Adopting the State of Montana's decision on expanding year-round bison habitat adjacent to Yellowstone National Park in Montana as an adaptive management change to the IBMP is an important and much-needed step forward. Please move forward with this positive step as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Matthews

Montana Chapter Sierra Club Executive Committee volunteer

Matt Skoglund
Natural Resources Defense Council

Shana Dunkley
Greater Yellowstone Coalition

Bonnie Rice
Sierra Club

Stephanie Adams
National Parks Conservation Association

Steve Forrest
Defenders of Wildlife

Glenn Hockett
Gallatin Wildlife Association

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Exhibit 3